NREGS in agricultural intensive area

579. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a demand and pressure from the farming community to stop National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) in agricultural intensive areas on the ground that NREGS has negative impact upon the farming community as it causes labour shortage and it will hit economic development of the country;

(b) the measures that could be taken to mitigate the problems of farmers faced by them on account of implementation of NREGS; and

(c) whether there would be a time-frame for this process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) No reference has been received in the Ministry indicating the negative impact of NREGA on the farming community caused due to any labour shortage. The primary objective of NREGA is to provide a supplementary wage employment to the rural households on demand. It should operate in a way that other forms of employment opportunities are also available to the people and promote an overall economic development of the country.

(b) and (c) The benefits of works on individual lands as given in para 1 (iv) of Schedule I of NREG Act have been extended to small and marginal farmers *vide* Notification dated 22.7.2009 as per the following amendment:

"Provision of irrigation facility, horticulture plantation and land development facilities to land owned by households belonging to the Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes or below poverty line families or to beneficiaries of land reforms or to the beneficiaries under the Indira Awaas Yojana of Government of India or that of the small farmers or marginal farmers as defined in the Agriculture Debt Waiver and Debit Relief Scheme, 2008."

National authority for rural job Schemes

580. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a national authority for rural job schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) There is no proposal under consideration of the Ministry to set up a National Authority for rural job schemes.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.